1106

INTERCHURCH WORLD MOVEMENT OF NORTH AMERICA

Suggestions for Immediate Cooperation

This statement is issued in advance of the complete organization of the committee of "One Hundred" in view of the importance of immediate information necessary for delegates who will attend the preparatory conferences, and also for the assistance of the increasing number of those who wish to avail themselves at once of the unique opportunities of the Church in cooperation in community service.

(Signed)

FRED B. SMITH, *Temporary Chairman.*

CONFERENCES AND CONVENTION COMMITTEE,
Metropolitan Building, Room 9018,
New York City, N. Y.

Foreword

The Purpose of the Interchurch World Movement of North America Is As Follows

TO PRESENT a unified program of Christian service, and to unite the Protestant churches of North America and their allied interests in the performance of their common task, thus making available the values of spiritual power which come from unity and coordinated, concerted Christian effort, and meeting the unique opportunities of the new era.

BY common consent of those who have been in intimate relation to the Movement, it has promise of making a contribution to the work of bringing in the Kingdom of God throughout the world unique, if not unparalleled, in the history of the Protestant Church. This hope is based upon the expectation that the entire plan will be carried out, and this can only be done if those participating do so in intelligent sympathetic relation to all the interests involved and to the entire scope of the message and method proposed. Later literature will

more fully explain the interests participating, but briefly stated they are all the Protestant Churches, Missionary Boards, Home and Foreign, the denominations affiliated with the Federal Council of Churches and all the allied societies of the Church such as:

Young Men's Christian Association
Young Women's Christian Association
Salvation Army
Sunday School Organizations
Laymen's Missionary Movement
Missionary Education Movement
Young People's Societies
Church Peace Union

The Movement, while essentially a unified one, will give particular emphasis to four major elements or sections.

FIRST THE CONFERENCE AND CONVENTION FEATURE

This pamphlet is to give counsel to those bearing initial responsibilities to this item.

SECOND THE SURVEY OF WORLD CONDITIONS, HOME AND FOREIGN

THIRD AN EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN

FOURTH THE FINANCIAL CAMPAIGN

To secure adequate funds for meeting the needs of all the affiliated organizations revealed by the survey for a period of five years.

FIFTH AN EFFECTIVE METHOD OF CONSERVATION

To seek to improve where necessary the organized forces of Christianity to meet permanently the issues of the new program.

Conferences and Conventions

TEN or more preparatory conferences will be held in the most strategic centers to be followed by such conventions as may be needed. The following definite objectives will be observed:

First To call the churches and Christian organizations to united effort upon their common tasks in community service.

Second To gain the immediate advantage of such conferences upon the newer problems of the Church as applied to the message and method best adopted to the period of reconstruction.

Third To announce to the whole nation the full plans of the "*Interchurch World Movement of North America.*"

Fourth To organize the strongest possible forces for carrying out the program.

1 State Committee
2 County Committee
3 Local, City or Town Committee

Fifth To furnish the platform for a great educational campaign concerning the complete needs of the Church.

Purposes of the Regional Conferences

First To set in motion at once in every city, town, county, village of the nation where it does not now exist, some form of preliminary interchurch organization which will meet the new post-war problems of the Christian Church as applied to the community and with primary attention to the opportunity during the months of the demobilization of the officers and men of the Army and Navy.

The delegates from every city and community will be given a simple, immediate program and be urged to call together, in their respective places, the Christian churches and societies to meet so far as possible this imperative task at once.

Where some form of interchurch organization does exist, earnest effort will be made at these conferences to strengthen its work upon this issue.

Second To assist in correlating the various reconstruction plans now being initiated by different churches and affiliated societies. No effort will be made, in any form, to interfere with or abridge any of these, but that greater value may be given to the whole by mutual understanding and cooperation.

Third To give added impulse to the greater elements of the message of the Gospel of Christ which bear peculiar relation to the new Internationalism. This accent to be noted in the hope that the pulpit of every Christian church and the platform of every other Christian organization in the nation and throughout the world may be led to proclaim the truth of Christ as the only earnest of "enduring peace."

Fourth To assist in organizing these delegates for the strong support of the greater series of conferences to be held under the direction of the Committee of One Hundred.

Formation of Committees

General Suggestions

Make Haste Slowly

While the preliminary steps for the building of this state-wide organization should begin at once, it cannot be too strongly emphasized that undue haste in its completion is to be studiously avoided.

Strong Leadership

The regional conferences offer splendid opportunity for developing the germ of these organizations, and it is confidently predicted that when this great program is presented in its entirety, its timeliness, scope and practical nature will stimulate and thus disclose some strong Christian leadership yet undiscovered.

Preliminary Committee

The actual construction of committees, State, County and Local, should not be determined at the regional conference, but a small committee to represent each state should be chosen by the delegates representing their respective state organizations. The duties of this committee shall be:

1 To prepare a comprehensive program for crystallizing in a definite way the plans and purposes of the movement as outlined and discussed at the Regional Conference.

2 To submit recommendations to the National Committee concerning the whole plan for state organization, in order that the National Committee may become a clearing house for the best plans worked out by the several state or-

ganizations, and that it may bring about any necessary standardization of plans and programs.

County and Community Responsibilities.

The county situation should be very thoroughly studied following the Regional Conference, and a representative temporary county committee should be chosen. This county committee should keep in touch with the temporary state committee, with reference to all plans and programs which may be developed, and should be the nucleus through which the attendance upon the state convention will be worked out after the plans have been approved by the National Committee, and the dates have been definitely fixed for the state convention in connection with the national convention.

Unified Administration.

While it is thoroughly understood that no centralized ecclesiastical authority is contemplated, it is equally important that it be as well understood that, in order to secure the advantages of this united program, a definite form of business administration of national scope be utilized and recognized.

Acting Committee.

Final selection of the County and Local Committees should not be determined until after the state conference; county and local delegations at both regional and state conferences to be the tentative committee only.

Expenses.

The Movement is to be financed out of the funds secured and not by assessments upon the participating bodies.

State Committee

Organization.

It is not purposed to establish any standard, elaborate form of organization for the State Committee, but simply to suggest that two or three very natural and very necessary plans of formation be observed.

Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer, and an Executive Secretary to constitute the nucleus of the organization.

Membership.

To be completely typical of the State, its membership should consist of at least one representative from each county, these representatives to be the chairmen of the committee in their respective counties. In some cases an addition to the committee of representatives from various parts of the state at large may seem advisable.

Trained Executive.

Of necessity the committee must have the services of a thoroughly trained man to serve in the capacity of Executive Secretary, and give his full time to the important work in hand. Much will depend upon the selection of this officer. As in the case of the State Chairman, he should be selected with the full approval of the National Committee.

Leadership Available.

It is the purpose of the National Committee to diligently search for and secure a group of men who, by reason of diversified qualifications, will be peculiarly adapted for this service; salary

to be assumed by the National Committee; all other expenses of office or administrative nature to be arranged for by the state.

Sub-Committees.

The necessary committees and their nomenclature to be worked out by the committee as necessity arises. The immediate need for such committees as "State-Wide-Organization," "Publicity," "Speakers," "Preliminary Survey Research," etc., will be apparent.

Objects in General.

It is unnecessary to mention other than in a general way the functions of the State Committee. These will be largely of a supervisory nature, and efficient machinery for administrative purposes will be highly necessary.

1 Responsibility for the organizing of County and Local Committees.

2 Program and general arrangements for any preparatory area conferences or meetings within the state.

3 Arrangements for a comprehensive state publicity program through the press, religious periodicals and strong speakers.

4 Cooperation with the National Committee in promotion of preliminary plans for the survey of religious conditions in the state, and later the dissemination throughout the state of the results of this united survey which will comprise the home and foreign fields of the world.

5 Development of definite plans for the conservation of results in cooperation with National, County and Local Committees.

Magnitude of Movement.

It is highly important that the State Committee become thoroughly conversant with the program of the Movement in its entirety. It will then become apparent what an important part the local committees will have in the success of this extraordinary undertaking and how necessary it is that the highest type of leadership be secured.

County Committee

Organization.

The same suggestions may be made for the formation of the County Committee as for the State Committee.

Chairman.

The groups of delegates attending the regional conference from their respective counties should take steps following the conference to select a group of county delegates to attend the state convention. This group should be a most representative body from church and allied interests throughout the county. It should present to the state convention its selection for county representative in the State Committee. This representative will presumably become chairman of his local County Committee.

Membership.

The membership of the County Committe should include chairmen of the respective city, town and village committees.

Administration Economy.

While it may seem advisable in some cases to maintain a separate active, administrating and supervising county organization, it is suggested that in the majority of cases the local organization in the largest city in the county cooperate with the county organization and thus afford the opportunity of jointly creating and using the necessary machinery. This will reduce and facilitate administration.

Local Committee

Organization.

The most important unit from the standpoint of the Interchurch World Movement of North America will be the Local Committee. Its structure must of necessity be left largely for local determination. At the same time, very much by way of suggestion and plan may be secured from other centers where organizations have already been projected, and have entered upon their work. Too great emphasis cannot be laid upon the importance of securing the right personnel. The men and women who are to serve should be chosen because of their peculiar fitness for leadership and they should combine, with deep spiritual character, broad vision, clear judgment, and good poise. It should be kept in mind that the chief object is to federate the evangelical churches in some definite way for the accomplishment of a great common task.

Membership and Size.

It should be a body truly representative of the entire church and allied Christian interests of the community. Its size must depend upon local conditions. Where demands make it of un-

wieldy proportions, a small executive committee should be selected from its members and given power.

Responsibilities.

In the last analysis the measure of success of this great Movement will depend upon the local organization.

This deep responsibility of right selection of personnel demands above all earnest prayer, thoughtful meditation and wise judgment.

Existing Interchurch Organizations.

Wherever an active, efficient federation or interchurch organization exists, such body should be recognized by this Movement as the basis of activities in that community. It should be approached at once, fully advised with, the Interchurch program explained, and cooperation therewith invited, with the request that steps be taken to unite and ally all interests, and through an adequate joint committee properly function together in promoting the Interchurch World Movement of North America.

Objects in General.

The functions of the Local Committee will call for cooperation with the County, State and National Committees in behalf of a better interchurch method for the Christian churches and affiliated societies in the new era; some of the important objectives to be:

1 The cultivation of good will and mutual understanding among the various churches and Christian organizations.

2 To discover the neglected realms in the specific Christian responsibility of the community, and to plan to have them met by some church or other society.

3 To discover overlapping or tendency to duplicate and apply the remedy as far as possible.

4 To meet unitedly the church's opportunity for service, and plan for a reconstruction program involving practical elements of community service.

5 Cooperation with the returning soldiers and sailors in securing them employment, and in bringing them into relationships that will be profitable to both body and spirit.

Preliminary Local Cooperation

Immediate Steps.

It is strongly urged that plans be laid for a conference to be held as soon after the regional conference as possible in every city, town and village for the promotion of the Movement. Great care should be exercised to insure adequate and typical representation at these respective conferences of all the Protestant churches and all Christian organizations allied with them.

The success of this world movement depends upon simultaneous, concerted effort. *The work of unrelated groups cannot satisfy the needs of the hour.*

Suggested One Day Program

9:30 A.M. *First Session*

Address, "An Adequate Church Program for the New Democracy," or "The New Problems of the Christian Church."

10:30 A.M. Open discussion based upon:

(a) Is the Church meeting the problems of the returned soldiers and sailors?

(b) Is the Church meeting the new community opportunities?

(c) Are the kindred organizations as vitally related to the Church as they ought to be?

(d) How can a better united expression of the comprehensive Church be secured?

(e) What adjustments in buildings and equipment will be necessitated by an adequate community program?

(f) What are the difficulties incident to the creation of community churches and how can they be met?

12.00 M. Appointment of special committees to report upon topics most vital.

12:30 P.M. *Second Session*

Meetings of committees and groups upon special phases of the conference.

2:30 P.M. *Third Session*

Address, "Making strong the spiritual life of the Church in an era of enlarged Social Service."

3:15 P.M. Reports of committees and open discussion.

4:15 P.M. Address, "The Interchurch World Movement of North America." Its program and purposes.

6:30 P.M. *Fourth Session*

Supper.

Four ten-minute addresses.

Theme, "The demand for a united Christian church in service."

8:00 P.M. *Fifth Session*

Public Mass Meeting.

(a) Reports of committees.

(b) Presentation of permanent plans.

(c) Address, "The Church and the New World Responsibility."

Our Returning Boys

Responsibilities—Ours and Theirs

THE period of demobilization of army, navy and aviation forces brings heavy responsibilities, not alone to the Christian Church but to these millions of young men. Thousands upon thousands of mothers and fathers will discover in the months to come that their boy, now returned, is not the *same boy* they offered to the service of their country.

What has happened? He has grown physically, mentally, morally, and spiritually in countless instances. His viewpoint of life has enlarged; his knowledge of the responsibilities of human relationship has increased in a wonderful degree; service to his fellowman has become a habit; courage, loyalty, friendliness, sympathy, attributes which may have been all too latent, have now burst forth into definite reality.

The church and allied Christian interests must also fully realize the deep significance of these changes, and it becomes a solemn duty to plan

concertedly the most sensible, practical, down-to-the-ground program for capitalizing this new God-given power, apparent in the hearts of men now as never before in the same measure and degree, and turn it into channels which will advance the Kingdom of God.

Let every community strive to outdo its neighbor in the comprehensiveness and effectiveness of its joint plans for Christian service. Remember these boys thoroughly understand and are in full accord with the principle of a common purpose and a united command. The Christian Church must think in world terms and act with world plans at this moment.

Adequate provision must be made:

First Common meeting places for social, recreational diversions.

Second Opportunity afforded by the church and Christian organizations for these men to express their earnest, sincere opinions concerning the Church, and thus by establishing a more complete understanding gain corresponding confidence.

Third Consistent continued efforts, jointly carried forward, to bring the returning soldier into relationships, business, social and religious, in the community, within the particular sphere which will be most helpful to him.

Fourth To properly survey the community and discover the most practical, effective method for accomplishing the above plans, and then to create and project the program in various areas of the community, either jointly or through a particular church or group of churches or allied organizations.

Note.—All Christian workers are earnestly petitioned, regardless of any views at variance with other portions of the Interchurch Movement, to unite heartily and accelerate this particular section of the program.

The Permanent Ideals of an Interchurch Committee, League or Federation

THE "Committee of One Hundred" in asking for a special committee in every local city, town or community for the purposes of administering the "Interchurch World Movement" does not seek to unduly urge such committees to contemplate permanent relations of that character unless the developments warrant. However, the committee does go forward in the conviction that ultimately in every locality where there are two or more Protestant churches, they ought to be definitely related by some form of interdenominational committee for those tasks which can only be realized by united effort.

Among many are the following:

I COMMUNITY CONFERENCE.

That all the churches and allied societies may be intelligent concerning the entire program under contemplation.

II CONDUCT UNITED EVANGELISTIC CAMPAIGNS.

Emphasis given to the type being wrought out in such efforts in communities without unusual outside leadership.

III DIRECT SOCIAL MOVEMENTS.

That the direct power of the united Church may be felt in the social problems of the community, including cooperation in enforcing and adopting laws vital to moral welfare.

IV CREATE COMITY BOARD.

That the spirit of sympathetic understanding may be encouraged among the churches and all Christian and philanthropic organizations. This to include assignment of various societies to special tasks, the location of new buildings and the wisdom of additional organizations.

V ESTABLISH PUBLICITY BUREAU.

By copy furnished to public press, printed pamphlets and literature to keep the entire people aware of the entire Christian program, its success, needs and perils.

VI MAKE AVAILABLE GREAT MESSAGES

Upon vital Christian themes, such as "World Peace," "International Justice," "Missionary Outlook," "Social Problems," "Evangelism," "Bible Study." This to be accomplished through occasional monthly or quarterly inspirational and educational union meetings.

Note.—Full details with working program for permanent federation, state or local, will be found in the Manual of Interchurch Work, published by the Commission on Interchurch Federation.

Of Interest in General

1

IN view of the widespread interest in problems of efficiency, cooperation, coordination and unity, it seems wise to call attention to the fact that this program is outlined and is to be carried out specifically upon the issues of *Interchurch Cooperation, Local, State, National and World Wide.*

While individuals upon these committees may feel deeply upon questions of organic union and while utmost freedom will be granted in discussion, this committee specifically does not wish to go beyond the limits for which it is appointed.

Several strong commissions are now in existence dealing with the organic tasks, and the campaign is not to interfere with them or seem to assume their prerogatives.

2

Attention is called to the uniform use of the term "Christian Churches" and "Christian Organizations." The movement is essentially Protestant, in the belief that the great immediate issue for the Kingdom of God is that of bringing into solid relations in service those churches related to this form of faith.

At no time or place, however, will the effort be permitted to resolve itself into a forum of attack upon any religious bodies, Protestant, Catholic, Greek or Jewish. Attention is also directed to the absolute, complete autonomy of the groups either by states or localities to do what seems best to them. There is no centralized ecclesiastical authority contemplated.

The National and State Committees exist only for friendly, helpful, Christian service in cooperation.

3

All committees, national, state, county or local, associated with this task are urged to acquaint themselves with efforts now being made along similar lines, and in the highest degree to form plans of association with these movements, that all together may concertedly and constantly give visible evidence of the spirit of unity and good will being sought.